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Pulitzer gold medals for "most disinterested and meritorious public service" were received in 1950, 1957 and 1963.

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No Job for Adventurers

OUR SOUTHERN DEFENSES are intact, the Pentagon says, despite a claim by Cuban exiles that they escaped radar detection in flying from Florida to raid the island. Accounts of the raid by members of a splinter group calling itself the 30th of November Movement had raised questions in Congress.

The reason the Air Defense Command did not spot the raiding plane is that there was none; the whole story was "an utter and complete hoax," the Defense Department reported. The exile group was out to attract attention and financial support.

It is reassuring to be told that the Florida radar screen is not full of holes as the exiles said. If one set of Cubans could evade detection to bomb the island, another set of Cubans could as easily slip over to bomb Florida.

The episode is nevertheless disturbing in that it reveals the holes in our method of dealing with the exile groups and the lack of unity on the part of the exiles themselves.

There is no solid consensus as to how to co-operate with the anti-Castro Cubans. Opinion ranges all the way from the thesis that we might as well learn to live with Castro to the other extreme of fostering an invasion launched from Central America. The exiles are splintered into quarrelsome groups competing for funds and favor.

done the one thing the exiles (and most Americans) most desire—free Cuba from the grip of Fidel Castro's Communist regime. But it has done more for the refugees that have swarmed into this country than is generally realized. By next year nearly \$200,000,000 in public funds will have been spent on fewer than 200,000 refugees, most of them still in Florida and most of them now absorbed into the economy.

It is only natural that the bulk of the refugees should live for the day when they can return to their own country in freedom. But this country has surely earned the right to expect that while the refugees are here they abide by U.S. laws.

They can only hurt their own cause if they engage in such harebrained stunts as the fictitious "flight" through the Florida radar screen. And they will do even more damage with warlike acts from bases on U.S. soil. Pinprick raids along the shoreline strengthen Castro rather than weaken him. They afford him new excuses for beefing up his defenses, tightening the screws on the civilian population, and making propaganda against the United States as an "aggressor."

The time will surely come for restoring Cuba to the ranks of free nations, by one means or another. But it is no job for a handful of greedy, publicity-hungry adven-